

portions of the affected monuments and to salvage the architectural members besides initiating minor repairs for which an allocation of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made.

The restoration of the affected monuments shall be taken up in a phased manner spread over a period of about two years or more.

Growth of Tourism Industry

668. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's market share of world tourism is less than half per cent, despite the fact that from 1960 to 2000 international tourism rose from 70 million to 700 million;

(b) whether India earns Rs. 14,000 crores in foreign exchange and generates a large amount of employment in the tourism business in a wide range of resources and industry;

(c) whether in spite of repeated approvals, Government are reluctant to take bold steps like creation of suitable infrastructure etc; and

(d) if so, the steps are being taken in the new Tourism Policy, which will provide significant growth to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The percentage share of tourist arrivals in India in the year 1999 was 0.37 in the total international tourists movement of 664 million all over the world.

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism in the year 2000 is Rs. 14,475 crores. The direct employment generated through tourism during the year 1999-2000 is estimated to be about 15.5 million.

(c) and (d) The development of tourism including creation of infrastructure is mainly undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for the development of

infrastructure including construction of tourist complex, way-side amenities, Yatri Niwas, etc. During the year 1999-2000, 415 projects amounting to Rs. 94.60 crores including projects relating to development of tourism infrastructure have been sanctioned to various State Govcrnmnts/U.T. Administrations. Some of the steps for the growth of tourism indicated in the revised draft of new tourism policy which has been put in the official portal of the Department of Tourism, Government of India, include facilitation of larger flow of funds to tourism infrastructure, etc.

Recognition to Bagurumba and Dances of Assam

669. DR. (MRS.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps has been taken by Government to recognise nationally the age old and popular Bagurumba dance and Bargeet of Assam which is practised by the people from time immemorial; and

(b) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi has informed that they have not formally adopted any policy for granting recognition to art forms in the country.

Allocation of Funds to Rajasthan

† 670. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by this Ministry to the State Government of Rajasthan as a grant during the financial years of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith details of items, programme or project and for any special head under which the same has been given; and

(b) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has timely provided the expenditure account to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The details of financial assistance

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.